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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Kazuhiko ONO *et al.*

Serial Number: NEW

Filed: January 18, 2002 (herewith)

For: LASER WELDING METHOD

#4a
NEAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 18, 2002

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 3 to read as follows:

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-- 3. (Amended) A laser welding method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said laser beam 2 is weaved in a direction substantially perpendicular to the welding advanced direction. --

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